

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB NO. 0704-0188	
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1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave Blank)		2. REPORT DATE April 1, 2002		3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Final Progress: 01/01/98 – 12/31/01
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Catalytic Oxidation of Mustard Simulants in Basic Solution			5. FUNDING NUMBERS DAAG55-98-1-0265	
6. AUTHOR(S) David E. Richardson				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Department of Chemistry University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32711			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U. S. Army Research Office P.O. Box 12211 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2211			10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER 37580-CH	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES The views, opinions and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by the documentation.				
12 a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.			12 b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)  The results of the current project to date show various approaches that can be used to improve the efficiency of bicarbonate-activated hydrogen peroxide for CWA and BWA destruction. Kinetic and spectroscopic results support the formation of peroxymonocarbonate ion ( $\text{HCO}_4^-$ ) as the oxidant in the catalytic reactions. Variation of bicarbonate source and the cosolvent can allow optimization of substrate solubility and oxidation rates for applications in chemical warfare agent decontamination. Use of surfactants and microemulsions in place of non-aqueous cosolvents has proven to be effective for mustard simulants. Surfactant-catalyst formulations have been developed that enhance oxidation reaction rates up to 20-fold or more over usual cosolvent-based BAP formulations. Biochemically-relevant oxidations have been studied in view of the possible combination of enzymatic and chemical decontamination approaches as well as the potential of BAP for BWA applications. Recent work has determined the enhancement of peroxide biocidal activity in the BAP system via direct studies of bacterial culture survival rates under various treatments.				
14. SUBJECT TERMS decontamination, oxidation, mustard, nerve agent, BWA, CWA			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 8	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OR REPORT UNCLASSIFIED	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION ON THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UL	

NSN 7540-01-280-5500

Standard Form 298 (Rev.2-89)  
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39-18

298-102

Enclosure 1

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**Statement of problem studied:**

*Introduction*

The oxidative destruction of chemical warfare agents (CWA) and biological warfare agents (BWA) is a promising approach for decontamination and demilitarization applications. Various oxidizing agents can be used to oxidize sulfides to sulfoxides and sulfones, and some of these have been investigated for simulants related to mustard, HD, and HD itself. We have been investigating the activation of peroxide by the bicarbonate ion as an effective approach to CWA oxidation and perhydrolysis. The  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{HCO}_3^-$  oxidation method (or BAP for "bicarbonate-activated peroxide") has several advantages for potential application in CWA and BWA decontamination.

*Summary of work during project period*

The results of the current project show various approaches that can be used to improve the efficiency of bicarbonate-activated hydrogen peroxide for CWA and BWA destruction. Kinetic and spectroscopic results support the formation of peroxymonocarbonate ion ( $\text{HCO}_4^-$ ) as the oxidant in the catalytic reactions. Variation of bicarbonate source and the cosolvent can allow optimization of substrate solubility and oxidation rates for applications in chemical warfare agent decontamination. Use of surfactants and microemulsions in place of non-aqueous cosolvents has proven to be effective for mustard simulants. Surfactant-catalyst formulations have been developed that enhance oxidation reaction rates up to 20-fold or more over usual cosolvent-based BAP formulations. Biochemically-relevant oxidations have been studied in view of the possible combination of enzymatic and chemical decontamination approaches as well as the potential of BAP for BWA applications. Recent work has determined the enhancement of peroxide biocidal activity in the BAP system via direct studies of bacterial culture survival rates under various treatments.

**List of manuscripts:**

(a) Published:

"Mechanism of Peroxymonocarbonate Oxidations of Sulfides," Deon Bennett, Huirong Yao, and David E. Richardson, *Inorg. Chem.* **2001**, 40, 2996.

"Equilibria, Kinetics, and Mechanism in the Bicarbonate Activation of Hydrogen Peroxide: Oxidation of Sulfides by Peroxymonocarbonate," David E. Richardson, Huirong Yao, Karen M. Frank and Deon A. Bennett, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, 122, 1729.

"Epoxidation of Alkenes with Bicarbonate-Activated Hydrogen Peroxide," Huirong Yao and David E. Richardson, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, 122, 3220.

(c) Scientific meeting presentations:

Regino, C. A. S.; Yao, H.; Johnson, J. V.; Nichols, L. S.; Mendes, T. J.; Richardson, D. E. "Catalytic Oxidation of Biomolecules by Peroxymonocarbonate: A Reactive Oxygen Species in Biochemistry?" *ACS National Meeting*, Washington, DC, August 20-25, 2000.

Bennett, D. A.; Yao, H.; Frank, K. M.; Xu, C.; Richardson, D. E. "Kinetics and Mechanism of Bicarbonate-Catalyzed Oxidation of Arylsulfides by Hydrogen Peroxide" *ACS National Meeting*, Washington, DC, August 20-25, 2000.

Yao, H.; Richardson, D. E. "Epoxidation of Alkenes by Bicarbonate-Activated Hydrogen Peroxide" *ACS National Meeting*, Washington, DC, August 20-25, 2000.

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Yao, H., Richardson, D. E. "Oxidations by Bicarbonate-Activated Hydrogen Peroxide: Equilibria, Kinetics and Micellar Effects", Inorganic Seminar, Department of Chemistry, University of Florida, FL, September, 2001.

Bennett, D. A.; Yao, H.; Richardson, D. E. "Kinetics And Mechanism for the Epoxidation of Alkenes by Peroxycarbonate" National Meeting of American Chemical Society, Chicago, IL, August, 2001.

Bennett, D. A.; Yao, H.; Richardson, D. E. "Kinetic Study for the Epoxidation of Alkenes by Peroxycarbonates" Florida Catalysis Conference, Palm Coast, FL, April, 2001.

Regino, C.; Yao, H., Richardson, D. E. "Oxidation of Biomolecules by Peroxymonocarbonate, a New Reactive Oxygen Species Formed from Hydrogen Peroxide and Bicarbonate" Florida Catalysis Conference, Palm Coast, FL, April, 2001.

(d) Submitted:

"Methionine Oxidation by Peroxymonocarbonate, A Reactive Oxygen Species Formed from Bicarbonate and Hydrogen Peroxide," David E. Richardson, Celeste Regino, and Huirong Yao, submitted *Free Radicals in Biology and Medicine* (in revision).

## Scientific personnel:

Huirong Yao (postdoctoral), Celeste Regino (graduate student), Deon Bennett (graduate student), Andrew Burke (graduate student), Dan Denevan (graduate student), David E. Richardson (PI)

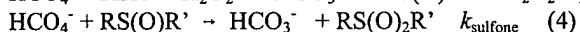
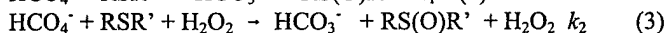
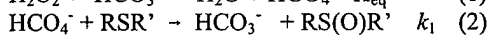
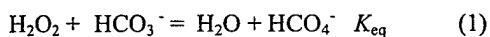
## Report of inventions:

none

## Scientific progress and accomplishments:

### *Mechanism of Peroxycarbonate Formation and Substrate Oxidations*

The proposed mechanism for sulfide oxidation by BAP is given in eqs 1 - 4.



The mechanism of the reaction in eq 1 has been studied by using  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR. In recent experiments, we used a double pH-shock method to first convert  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  to  $\text{CO}_2$  then raise the pH to allow water and peroxide to compete for the intermediate  $\text{CO}_2$ . The initial distribution of products  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  and  $\text{HCO}_4^-$  can be used to determine relative rate constants for hydration and perhydration, and the subsequent equilibration kinetics can then be modeled as a function of pH. A summary of our current best-fit model is shown below.

We have also studied the equilibration kinetics for eq 1 by  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR in the presence of carbonic anhydrase or a zinc model compound for the active site of CA, 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecanecarboxylic acid (Zhang & Van Eldik 1995). In both cases, the equilibration of eq 1 after mixing was complete in the time required to obtain the initial  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum ( $t_{1/2} < 60$  s vs.  $t_{1/2} \sim 300$  s in the absence of catalyst at 25 C), indicating significant catalysis of the formation of  $\text{HCO}_4^-$  when the dehydration reaction and, probably, the perhydration reaction are accelerated.

In order to obtain kinetic parameters for the catalytic effect of the zinc model complex on the formation of  $\text{HCO}_4^-$

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the equilibration kinetics for eq 1 were investigated in the presence of various concentrations of  $[(12\text{aneN4})\text{Zn(II)}][\text{ClO}_4]_2$  at 10 C. The equilibrium constant  $K_{eq}$  (eq 1) was calculated to be  $0.46 \pm 0.02 \text{ M}^{-1}$  at 10 C from the relative peak intensities and the concentration of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . The predicted first-order rate constant for the equilibration reaction in eq 1 is given by  $k_{obs} = (k_f + k_{cat}[\text{ZnL}])/([\text{H}_2\text{O}_2] + K_{eq})$  in the presence of the zinc catalyst, where  $k_{cat}$  is the third-order rate constant for the catalytic pathway. The observed pseudo-first order rate constant  $k_{obs}$  has a linear relationship with the concentration of  $\text{Zn(II)}$  complex, as is shown in Figure 2. From the rate law and the concentration of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , at 10 C the catalytic rate constant for the forward reaction  $k_{cat}$  is  $8.0 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The estimated  $t_{1/2}$  for equilibration of eq 1 at 25 C in the presence of 0.010 M Zn catalyst and 2 M  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  is  $\sim 40 \text{ s}$ .

Figure 1

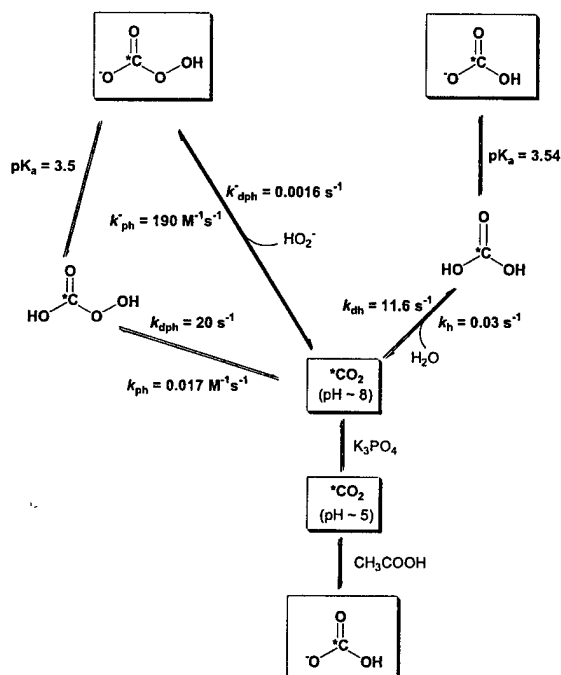
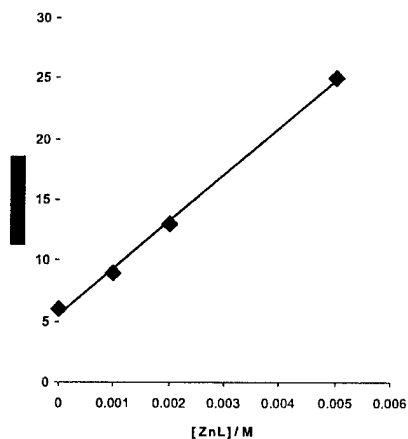


Figure 1



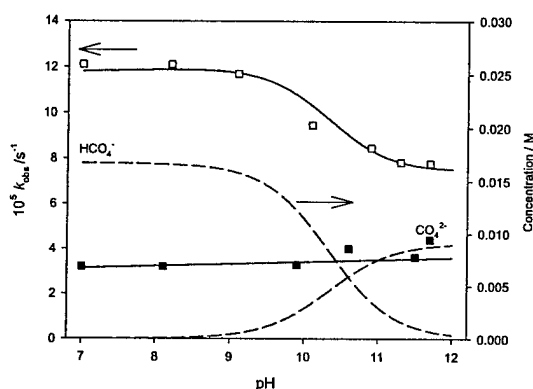
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## *pKa of $\text{HCO}_4^-$*

From the pH dependence of oxidation rates and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR equilibrium experiments, the estimated pKa of peroxymonocarbonate was found to be  $\sim 10.6$ . As seen in Figure 3, although the reactivity decreases as  $\text{HCO}_4^-$  is deprotonated,  $\text{CO}_4^{2-}$  remains reactive with the simulant EPS (open squares in Figure 3). Thus, a broad range of pH values can be used to produce the optimal formulation for a universal decon system.

**Figure 2**



## *Lifetime of BAP Solutions*

The instability of activated  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  solutions is a potential weakness for the development of stable peroxide-based decontamination systems usable after long term storage. Indeed, many strong oxidant solutions, such as hypochlorite, are subject to decomposition over time. In aqueous solution,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  is thermodynamically unstable with respect to disproportionation into  $\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . In addition, if  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  is activated through formation of a more reactive adduct the lifetime of active oxygen in the solution is usually diminished. We have completed a two month study to assess the storage stability of bicarbonate-activated peroxide vs. unactivated peroxide solutions.

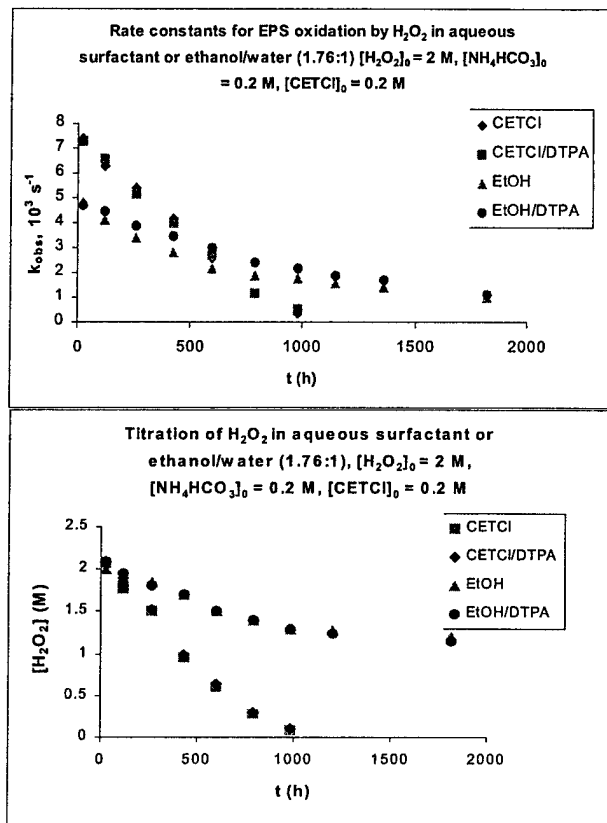
Sample solutions of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  were prepared in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , CETCI/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , with added  $\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$  or  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$ . In addition, EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and CETCI/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solutions with chelating agent DTPA were also prepared for stability studies to reduce possible interference by trace metal impurities. The solutions were titrated with the standard iodometric method periodically. For the solutions of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$ , the rates for oxidation of ethylphenylsulfide were followed at the same time. The rate of ethylphenylsulfide oxidation and the concentration of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  determined by iodometric titration are plotted as a function of time in Figure 4.

In general,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  is less stable in solutions containing  $\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$  than the corresponding solutions buffered with  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$ . This is especially obvious for CETCI surfactant solutions ( $t_{1/2}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 = 20$  days vs.  $> 360$  days). The results suggest that the stability of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  decreases by activation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  to form peroxymonocarbonate. The decay of the rates for ethylphenyl sulfide oxidation corresponds to the titration curves in EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  or CETCI/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solutions with  $\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$ . The decomposition of  $\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$  in EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solution may account for the faster decay of oxidation rate comparing to the life time of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  obtained from the titration curves. The decomposition of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  slows down gradually in EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  with the loss of  $\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$  (presumably to  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). We conclude that  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  solutions with useful chemical reactivity are insufficiently stable to be stored for long periods without significant loss of oxidation capacity.

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Figure 3



## Biochemical oxidations by peroxymonocarboante

The kinetic parameters for the  $HCO_4^-$  oxidation of methionine were obtained previously ( $k_1 = 1.0 \pm 0.3\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ s}^{-1}$ ). At the concentration of bicarbonate in blood, it is estimated that peroxymonocarboante formed in equilibrium with  $H_2O_2$  will oxidize methionine up to two-fold more rapidly than plasma  $H_2O_2$  itself. As an example of methionine oxidation in proteins, the bicarbonate-catalyzed  $H_2O_2$  oxidation of  $\alpha 1$ -proteinase inhibitor has been investigated via its effect on elastase activity. The rate constant for  $HCO_4^-$  oxidation of  $\alpha 1$ -proteinase inhibitor ( $0.36 \pm 0.06\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ s}^{-1}$ ) is comparable to that of met, suggesting that met oxidation is occurring.

We have studied the oxidation of lipids and model alkenes because of the possible role of membrane oxidation in biocidal activity. Oxidation of mono- and di-unsaturated fatty acids and model compounds results in epoxidation followed by hydrolysis. In addition, we investigated the oxidation of guanosine as a model for nucleic acids, RNA, and DNA. By HPLC-electrospray mass spectrometric analysis, BAP oxidation of guanosine produces a number of products, including the 8-oxo product used widely as a marker for DNA damage. In both general classes of compounds,  $H_2O_2$  alone is essentially unreactive, but BAP is active for oxidations.

## Development of Surfactant/Water Media for Oxidations and Acceleration of $HCO_4^-$ Oxidations

We have done experiments designed to test the replacement of cosolvent in BAP oxidations with surfactants and microemulsions to achieve substrate solubility and increase reactivity. This work was based on the idea that

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reducing the amount of organic components (e.g., cosolvents) in decon solutions would be desirable in some circumstances due to environmental and toxicity considerations. In addition, it would be possible to produce concentrated formulations using surfactants that would require only addition of water from local supplies, thereby reducing transportation and storage burdens.

Cationic surfactants proved to be excellent cocatalysts and solubilizing agents for oxidation of simulant sulfides (Figure 5) and alkenes. Figure 6 shows the dependence of  $k_{obs}$  for ethylphenylsulfide oxidation on concentration of  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  for three cationic surfactants, and Figure 5 shows that these solutions can be more active than ethanol/water with the same catalyst concentration.

Our results are consistent with the expectations from the ion-exchange model for micellar catalysis. Bromide ion competes effectively with  $\text{HCO}_4^-$  for the cationic interface, while chloride is more readily displaced. The linear dependence on  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  concentration is consistent with ion-exchange equilibria.

We have also produced reactive counterion catalysts that show exceptional activity in promotion of  $\text{HCO}_4^-$  oxidations ( $k_1/k_0 = 4000$  vs  $\sim 200$  to  $300$  in alcohol/water mixtures). One of these formulations is shown as "UF catalyst" in Figures 5 and 6. These are easily synthesized cationic surfactants with  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  counterions that react with bulk  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  to produce micelle-bound  $\text{HCO}_4^-$ , which has high reactivity with substrate at the micelle surface. In addition to the kinetic effect, cationic micelles have a thermodynamic preference for binding  $\text{HCO}_4^-$  over  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ , thereby increasing  $K_{eq}$  value for eq 1 and increasing available  $\text{HCO}_4^-$  for oxidations.

Figure 4

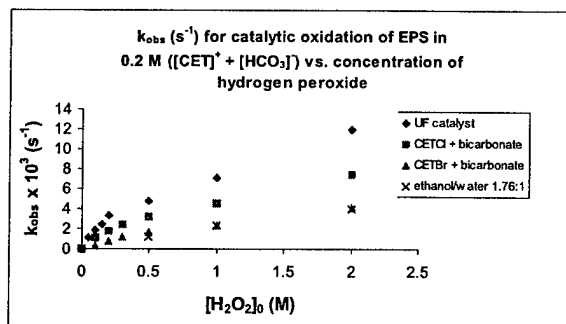
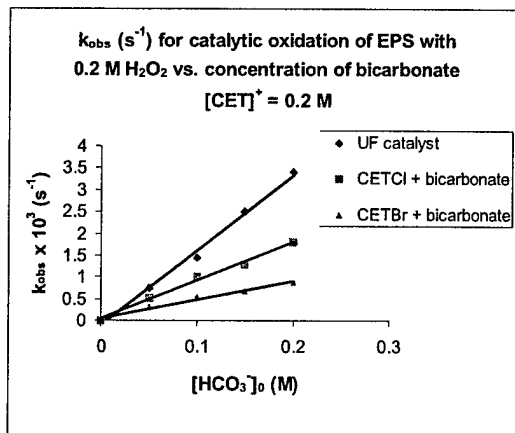


Figure 5



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## *Biocidal Activity of Bicarbonate-activated Peroxide - Comparisons to Hypochlorite and Unactivated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>*

We have suggested that the BAP system could be the foundation for a truly universal decontaminant encompassing both chemical and biological warfare agents. Therefore, we have studied its biocidal activity in collaboration with Dr. Hillman (U. Florida College of Dentistry). Our work on bacterial culture survival rates (including *Salmonella* and *E. coli*) has conclusively demonstrated that the BAP system has higher biocidal activity compared to the controls than H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> alone. For example, with [HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>] = 0.10 M, the biocidal activity of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is approximately two-fold higher than H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> with [Cl<sup>-</sup>] = 0.10 M (Figure 7). We have taken care to insure reproducible conditions and results in these experiments.

In the course of our work, it became clear that the biocidal activity of hydrogen peroxide should be compared directly to that of hypochlorite, an effective, widely-employed biocide. We could not find direct, side-by-side comparisons of hypochlorite to hydrogen peroxide in the literature. The results for *E. coli* are shown in Figure 8. On a concentration basis, we find that the "killing rate constant" for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is approximately 50-fold less than that of hypochlorite (Figure 8). This difference in reactivity is significantly reduced through bicarbonate activation of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and this proposal considers peroxide-based formulations that could eliminate the difference. If all of the acceleration of killing with BAP is attributed to HCO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, then the killing rate constant for HCO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> is comparable to that of OCl<sup>-</sup>.

Figure 6

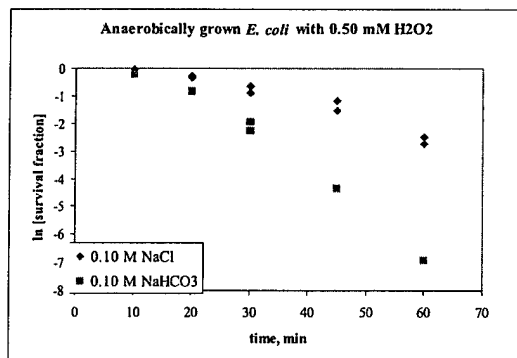
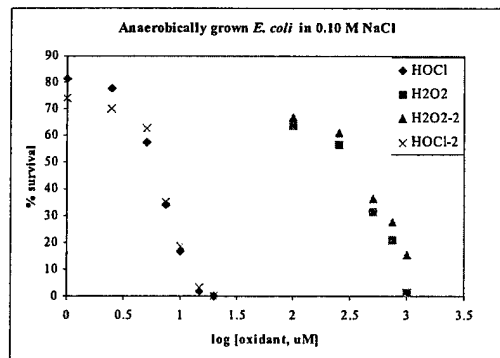


Figure 7



Technology transfer: none